

## VON ARNIM.

## The Fallen Minister in Prison.

## The Cruel Manner of His Arrest.

## THE PRISONER'S PRISON HOUSE

## Bismarck's Efforts to Discover the Missing Papers.

## A Commercial View of the Situation.

## IS BISMARCK LOSING HIS REASON?

BERLIN, Oct. 17, 1874.

Great pressure is being put upon Count Arnim. He is in solitary confinement at a charitable institution—hospital for mad dogs opposite—and he is subjected to interrogatories, interrogatories somewhat rude; and his replies are received in sullen silence after the official German manner, always much wanting in courtesy. His arrest at his birthday dinner was roughly done. "You come with us," said the policeman, and took him suddenly. His Countess, too, was asked questions without the usual formalities addressed to gracious ladies from whom information is desired. "Where are your keys? Where are your drawers and paper receptacles? Turn out your pockets." A high-spirited Countess, this, full of fire and indignation at such treatment, one of the most beautiful and well-born women in Europe, whom an imperial Chancellor's bulidogs have treated thus, while her husband sits in solitary confinement under such interrogatories as have been hinted at.

THE AMBASSADOR AT THE POORHOUSE. A diplomatist who has insisted on the right of asylum, once the most precious privilege of his profession, now fallen obsolete, and who has had it conceded to him by his own government and in his own person, by ways and means he never dreamed of, is truly a sight for gods and men. An ambassador in sanctuary, with the needy, the forlorn and the insane of his own country people, and having only won up even to that height of misery by extreme favor, together with the aid of medical certificates solemnly declaring, on the professional reputation of divers physicians, that he really has "the sugar sickness" and is in a bad way, surely the plight of such an ambassador is pitiable.

Count Arnim walks about in the garden of this asylum where he has been lodged so unexpectedly, and he seems baffled, angry, possibly a little flustered, not seeing his way so clearly as when in Paris last year. Among the possibilities of his case, and perhaps that which he discerns most plainly at present, is this: He may be condemned to a year's imprisonment, or even to five years' imprisonment, by the Criminal Court, for having stolen papers which the civil tribunal will as the same time declare to be his own property. One thing is more certain still, that however innocent he may be he will not escape more punishment in addition to that he has already suffered. An attempt is being made to break down the courage of this stalwart Count Arnim; an attempt which has not hitherto succeeded, but is likely to succeed. A very obstinate man the Count, who will in no wise admit that he has done wrong, though he regrets that matters have come to such a pass with him. His wife and son were formally forbidden to visit his prison yesterday, the command being briefly signified to them in harsh terms. And as though that were not enough the house of the Countess Arnim-Boytenburg, widow of the late Minister of Prussia, was also searched in the wild hunt now going on for the ex-Ambassador's papers, which are safely deposited abroad.

Still Prince Bismarck, acting through his law officers, thought up to yesterday that he might get hold of these papers by subtlety; and having been informed that a part of the ex-Ambassador's effects were coming from Paris he obtained a list of eighty-six boxes belonging to His Excellency, through the French Customs House. These boxes, being diligently searched by official persons of experience competent to such a task were found to contain a noble lady's wardrobe, and, well, a few letters dated "Rome, 1870"—nothing more, and the official persons had to report that they were again baffled, after having taken so much trouble. Now about this noisy pamphlet, the "Revolution from Above," said to have been written by Dr. Lang, Herr von Windhorst, a notable person of the parliamentary sort, somehow being mixed up with it in the newspapers. I have followed this will-o'-the-wisp to Hanover and Leipzig; sent after it also to Geneva, Brussels and elsewhere to places at which combustible literary materials are commonly exploded upon a startled world. The pamphlet turns out to be utterly illusory. Count Arnim, the younger, being asked to state upon his word of honor as a Prussian gentleman what he knows about the "Revolution from Above," replies, "Nothing"; that is to say, nothing out this—"Neither my father, my stepmother, nor I have had anything to do with such a pamphlet. None of the documents claimed by Prince Bismarck have been given out for publication. We have no knowledge of the pamphlet or its author."

Dr. Lang, on being applied to, gravely asserts that he has no acquaintance with the Arnims and has never held any communication with them; also, that he has not and never had any papers of Count Arnim in his possession. Herr von Windhorst is equally emphatic. Berlin booksellers, of radical opinions, eager for profits, have searched for this pamphlet to secure the early advantage of a brisk sale; but it is nowhere to be had. "Stopped at the frontier!" suggests inquiry. "Oh no!" answer the Berlin booksellers. The great (and small) booksellers of Leipzig, and many literary men not upon German politics, and out of the way of danger, can get no news of this pamphlet.

"A pamphlet evidently not in existence," say the booksellers and literary politicians who will hear no more of it on any terms. "May perhaps come out as a catch-penny," they think, "because so much noise has been made about it," but it is now positively non-existent.

A SNIP AT A TRUTH.

"These Arnims are all Jews," says my commercial friend, who I meet at the Berlin Club in the Behren Strasse; then he falls silent as one who is looking intently into a mistletoe till he has begun to see through it. I will prod my commercial friend with a stroke of irony, and answer, "Pooh, what then?" No surer way of rousing a commercial man into eagerness of opposition, from which may result some spark of intelligence. "Jew, sir, renegade Jew," this Ambassador who is in prison, a somewhat ostentatious Protestant, replies my commercial friend with warmth. I request him to give me a light for my cigarette, which has gone out, and then get up with half a yawn politely suppressed, a proceeding which excites him to fever heat. He sets me down in his own mind as a fool who demands prompt teaching.

"Wait a while, Mr. Correspondent," says he, with an almost pathetic attempt to enlighten me. "You do not see the bearings of this case. It is really a stock exchange intrigue. My commercial friend has me shot by the bottom now, and

pours out his information or his fancies in a continuous stream of talk—not wholly to be despised by a newspaper correspondent in search of facts.

"Harrone Rothschild refused to allow this Ambassador, Count Arnim, to lead her into dinner when he was in Paris. There has been a feud of long standing between the Rothschilds and the Prussian government. (Fight going on warmly even now, as my commercial friend knows.) The Rothschilds have persistently refused to issue Prussian loans, and this new Prussian cottage, which is just equal to English money is a measure directly aimed at the Rothschilds. It has already inflicted harm and loss upon them. The Berlin bankers have been repeatedly outmaneuvered by the Rothschilds, now they have taken their revenge. Rothschilds also may have their notions of reprisals, and this business of Count Arnim has been notoriously stirred up in Paris through small official persons very accessible to influences."

NOTION OF A MEDICAL MAN.

"The temper of Prince Bismarck has become ungovernable. He is constantly racked by pain of body and mental anguish. His health is very bad, and his diet of a kind to keep him in a perpetual state of feverish irritation. He has of late become sullenly suspicious, impatient of observation, and as rude as a bear with a sore head; has a sore head, indeed, himself. He has long been jealous of Count Arnim, who is much liked by the Queen, and whose elevation would be certainly welcome to the nobility. What he has done against Count Arnim has been dictated as much by fear as by anger, and fear is always cruel. He has done himself more harm than he thinks by these proceedings, and I expect to hear every day that he will have a stroke of apoplexy."

COUNSELLOR'S ADVICE.

"I am one of the supporters of Count Arnim who advised him not to yield in this case. I have been a judge myself, but I never would have countenanced or taken part in an arbitrary proceeding which has imprisoned a high officer of state on a prosecution by the Crown without a trial. I do not believe that the judges who have rejected his appeal to be set at liberty are free from improper influences. I do not believe that they have acted in accordance with the law, and I think that the civil courts will pronounce against them. That will not save Count Arnim; for I have reason to suppose that he has been already decided to sentence him to one year's imprisonment. That will do him no harm. The prosecution directed against him will do him no harm; on the contrary, it will make him more popular. Everybody knows it arises from the personal rancor of Bismarck. I speak very freely to you because I am not in the public service and may say what I like without fear of consequences. I have no doubt in my own mind that Count Arnim will be Chancellor of the German Empire within the next five years, perhaps before. He is a very clever man, very honest, very much liked in high quarters and very rich. We have had enough of Prince Bismarck, and when he dies, or when the King dies, there will be a clean sweep made of all his creatures. That will be Arnim's opportunity, and he will profit by it."

VIEWS OF A PERMANENT OFFICIAL.

"Whatever comes of this business Count Arnim is politically ruined. He has been guilty of insubordination, or of an extremely contrary to the official traditions of Prussia; he should have again been employed in the public service. The best thing which can happen to him is to be forgotten. The Queen has no influence whatever over her husband, and the Crown Prince is too cautious to break through the customs of the country. Count Arnim is in the wrong; and if he were not in the wrong it would be all the same. He is a ruined man."

THE KING'S GRACE.

Imperial and Royal German Majesty will not see the Countess Arnim, all negotiations and perhaps entreaty in that direction having broken down and suddenly dropped into darkness. A German Majesty, possibly too much afraid of his own kindness, being a soldier and a gentleman, who could not witness a great lady's sorrow over her husband's captivity unmoved. A heavy away at Baden-Baden and going to a hunting when he comes home, Crown Prince goes a hunting, too, "with a large party," and of no use had been at Baden-Baden. That is all the outcome of much waiting and anxiety. No hope at all from Royal and Imperial Majesty. Nothing but a blank look out upon the law officers of the Crown for poor Count Arnim and her son just now. A very mournful Countess and young Count, who has put by his dragon's sword and is studying to become a "jurist," that he himself may deal with legal difficulties in good time. Some people are said to be working underground, even at the imperial and royal Court—hidden far away in Baden—for the Countess; but Majesty makes no sign as yet, affecting a feeling of surprise rather than disposed to exert authority.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Count Arnim cannot be tried before November, at the earliest date. Then if he is condemned, as he probably will be, and the judges admit the plea of "extenuating circumstances," it is possible, not probable, that he will only be sentenced to one month's imprisonment. If they do not admit the plea of extenuating circumstances he will probably be sentenced to a year's imprisonment. His case is quite unprecedented in Prussian law. When first arrested he was treated as an ordinary criminal prisoner. Since his transfer upon medical certificate to the hospital, where he is now detained, he is lodged nominally in two rooms; but one of these rooms is also occupied by two policemen, who never lose sight of him, and he has no privacy. He is not allowed to see or to communicate with any person whatsoever. Even his attorney is denied access to him, and not permitted to correspond with him in writing. He is in solitary confinement, cut off absolutely from human speech and companionship. His house has been again searched by six experienced detectives, who sounded every wall and wainscot, and all the beds and mattresses were opened to find the papers Prince Bismarck wanted. None were found or could be found.

The Latest Phase of the Trouble.

BERLIN, Oct. 18, 1874.

The Public Prosecutor now engaged in preparing the allegations against Count Arnim will probably take not more than three weeks to complete his task, notwithstanding the proverbial slowness of German legal procedure. But both the press and the public here are anxious to press on the trial to terminate a public scandal, and even Bismarck is not strong enough to set at defiance the general wish of the German people. I am authorized to state that all allegations of high treason are withdrawn and that the whole charge against Count Arnim has now dwindled down to one of official insubordination in having refused to deliver up documents which he said belonged to him. The State while he was in the prison was in a charge which could only have been brought against an official person. It seems to have been contemplated by the new law; but no case similar to that of Count Arnim has hitherto occurred, so that the judges are entirely without precedent in dealing with it. In searching the house of Countess Arnim Boytenburg the police officer set fire to it either by accident or design; but the flames were happily extinguished before much harm was done. An inquiry has been instituted into the cause of the fire, and it is alleged that it was brought about by one of the police having dropped a lighted cigar on some inflammable materials. It is also said that the guilty official will be severely punished. The fact of a policeman having smoked cigars in a great lady's house while in discharge of his duties will show in what a discourteous and offensive manner a search was conducted. There remains also the much graver fact that Count Arnim, a statesman of unblemished character, who has rendered great service to his country, is still shut up in solitary confinement in the same building with paupers and lunatics and opposite a refuge for mad dogs, and that there is nothing whatever but a cock and a bull story even alleged against him.

I am authorized to state that Count Arnim is not, and never has been, in debt to any one, and that the rumors to the contrary are merely the fabrications of persons who may have their own reasons for spreading false reports about him. I shall write again to-night.

## COUNT VON ARNIM AND BISMARCK

## A Strange Story of an Old World Tangle from St. Louis by way of Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 1, 1874.

The Commercial to-day contains the following special dispatch:—

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 31, 1874. On Wednesday evening last, a young German, whose name cannot be learned, was taken in charge by Mr. Thomas Lanerger, manager of the detective association of this city. The order for his capture came by cable from Bismarck, in Berlin. He was an under secretary to Count von Arnim when that nobleman was officiating as Minister at Paris. At the time the letters of Bismarck to the Count were abstracted from the archives of the Paris Legation a portion of them were confided to the care of the under secretary, with instructions to keep himself out of the way. He remained concealed until Von Arnim's arrest, and about six weeks ago he started for New York, and proceeded thence to Kansas City, Mo., where he remained two weeks. At the expiration of that time he came to St. Louis, where he arrived ten days ago.

He took lodgings in the aristocratic portion of the city under an assumed name. Money seemed to be plentiful with him and he made no effort to secure employment. When Von Arnim was admitted to bail, he pledged himself to secure the return of the Under Secretary and also of the papers in his possession, and furnished Bismarck with the clue to his whereabouts.

Bismarck's dispatch was to the German officials at Washington, and they communicated with Lanerger here. He immediately put himself in communication with the under secretary, who demanded that the request for his return should come from Von Arnim. Upon being satisfied that it was his master's wish he consented to go back to Berlin. He had left the papers and letters in charge of a German merchant in New York.

On Wednesday night he left St. Louis for the East, via the Vandalia route, arriving in New York Friday night, receiving his papers and setting sail to-day for Europe. There has been an effort on the part of the detectives to conceal the affair, but it has leaked out through a friend of the Under Secretary, who also refused to give the man's name.

The detectives, upon being questioned, admit that they sent such a man to Europe upon advice from Berlin; but decline to give his name or tell how far he was connected with Von Arnim or the abstracted State documents, though they admit he was wanted for political reasons.

## PRUSSIAN DYNASTIC POLICY.

High-Handed Rule of the Hohenzollerns Over the German People—How Political Opponents Have Been "Stunned Out"—The Von Arnim and Werner Cases.

No political incident has lately attracted such general attention, both here and in Europe, as the apparently arbitrary manner in which the proceedings instituted by the German government against their late Ambassador at Paris, Count von Arnim, have been carried on. The most divergent theories have been urged and the most conflicting arguments employed to explain away the seeming difficulties of the case; but in one point all concur, that the arrest and imprisonment of that nobleman is solely and entirely due to the all-powerful and overwhelming influence which the German Chancellor, Prince Bismarck, exercises over the mind of his sovereign. Doubtless the Prince does wield very high authority in the councils of the Court of Berlin, and it cannot be denied that he is fully entitled so to do by reason of the magnitude of the services he has rendered not only to the Emperor personally but to the German Empire at large; but still it is important, if we wish to obtain a true insight into the facts of the situation, to remember that this is by no means the first instance in which princes of the House of Hohenzollern, whose subjects happened to entertain different views of the duties entailed upon them by their allegiance from those held by their august masters, have dealt with the offenders more summarily than has His Majesty the Kaiser with the unfortunate Count von Arnim. It is well known that the present Emperor of Germany is in many respects a typical Hohenzollern, and has inherited, with many of the noblest qualities of that justly-celebrated house, that firm conviction in the orthodoxy of the doctrine of the "right divine," which has always been one of the most prominent elements in the creed of his royal predecessors. Although the Hohenzollern Electors of Brandenburg and Kings of Prussia have always professed to take a just pride in the purity of their law courts and the independence of their judges and have been upheld by their biographers as models of justice and equity, yet truth will compel any one who, not content with merely skimming the surface of history, occasionally takes a plunge into its deeper waters, to admit that they have never shown the least scruple in employing personal influence and even intimidation in order to set aside the verdicts of those very courts when they happened to be at variance with their arbitrary will.

CASES IN POINT.

It may be of some slight interest to attempt to place existing circumstances under the lens of the light of past events and to cite a few of the many cases in which, sometimes for good, sometimes for evil motives, these rulers unhesitatingly reversed the judgments their tribunals had rendered after full and mature deliberation, always keeping one fact in mind that while other monarchs boldly proclaimed themselves above the law, these princes asserted as the proudest jewel in their crown the pre-eminence throughout their States of the legal over the royal power. It would be alike tedious and unprofitable to enter into any details regarding the times preceding the close of the thirty years' War. Europe was then a vast military camp, but lacking all soldierly discipline; might was right, and the citizen and peasant were considered the fair and natural prey of the King and the noble, whose privilege of oppression was only limited by their material power of attack and that of the sufferer to contribute. In those dark days it is but just to the Hohenzollerns to say that they were no worse, but probably a great deal better, than their neighbors. It was Frederick William, *der grosse Churfurst*, "the Great Elector," who first laid the foundations of the State which, in the comparatively short period of two hundred years, has grown to such gigantic dimensions. He was a wise and patriotic prince, enlightened in his views and not inattentive to his people's interests; but he wished to provide for them after his own way, while they too often foolishly imagined that they could manage their own affairs better for themselves than he could for them.

THE CITY OF KONIGSBERG.

the capital of Polish, or, as it is more often called, Royal Prussia, a province which the Elector of Brandenburg held as a fief from the Polish Crown, was the largest and most flourishing town in those parts, did a very considerable commerce for that time and region, and enjoyed extensive and important privileges and immunities, undisturbed possession of which was guaranteed it by the Silesian Crown of Poland. Frederick William found the allegiance to Poland a very onerous burden upon his ambitious aspirations, and skillfully taking advantage of the difficulties in which that kingdom was at the time involved, succeeded, by dint of alternate threats and promises, enforced by well-timed and copious bribes, to extort a treaty from the Court of Warsaw which freed him and his successors from all their obligations toward Poland. This was a profound stroke of policy, and its success was hailed with joy by his subjects as well as himself; but as soon as it was completed he began to encroach slowly and step by step, but none the less surely, upon the rights which the cities and rural proprietors had enjoyed under the Polish suzerainty. Konigsberg, being the town of most importance, was also the foremost city to assert her rights against this unauthorized interference, and appealed from the authority of the Crown to the "Landstände," or Provincial Assembly; but the "Elector, knowing that only by the sword could he subvert his

sanction to their being called together, and Konigsberg therefore proclaimed his decrees illegal and defied attendance to the officers charged with their execution. This resistance continued for a long time, and was principally prompted by the Burgomaster or Mayor, an able, independent and energetic man, who incurred the bitter hostility of the Elector by his patriotic endeavors. Finding all other efforts to reduce the city to submission unavailing, and dreading a collision with Poland if he had recourse to force, Frederick William proposed to the Burgomaster an interview, without the town walls, as a means of devising some method of settling the difficulty. The unsuspecting citizen readily consented, but had no sooner placed himself in the power of his treacherous enemy than he was seized and conveyed to a strong castle of the Elector's, who kept him a prisoner for the rest of his life, nor would he ever grant him his petition to be brought before the courts there to be tried for whatever crimes he may have committed. After his capture the Elector found less difficulty in gaining over a party among the other burghers and finally obtained possession of the city upon his own terms.

Still more high-handed were his proceedings in the case of Ludwig von Kalkstein, Sheriff of Oltzeo,

who had offended him in a singular manner by conveying a complaint from the Assembly of Knights of the Province of Prussia to the King of Poland against the influence of the Elector. Frederick William first attempted to obtain his extradition by representing to the King of Poland, through Eusebius von Brandt, his Ambassador at that Court, that Kalkstein had forged the credentials he had exhibited as deputy from the Knights. Kalkstein had no difficulty in demonstrating the absurdity and intuity of this charge, and the Elector then adopted a bolder plan to silence him, by having him kidnapped, gagged and wrapped in carpsa, in which manner he was transported, in the shape of a bale of goods, over the frontier to Konigsberg, where he was tried upon a trumped-up charge of treason and beheaded in the year 1670.

THE EXCUSES.

It may be said that in a young State undergoing the throes of a sudden transition from the lawlessness of the feudal system to the systematic and well-ordered polity of a modern monarchical government such incidents of occasional oppression are inevitable—nay, are, in fact, in the end conducive to the well-being of the very classes against whose happiness they at first appear to militate; so we will pass over a period of sixty years and find ourselves in the year 1730 under the reign of King Frederick William, grandson of the "Great Elector" and second King of Prussia. The State has gone on prospering; it has been peaceful at home and commerce, manufacture and agriculture have been steadily and without any sudden increase, while the armies have acquired renown for a valor and discipline which give fair promise of greater victories to come in future years. Prussia is now fully recognized as forming one of the comity of nations as much so as France or England. Surely no exceptional measures are now needed, both King Frederick and his son, the reigning monarch, having bestowed the greatest attention on the reform of the law courts, and most carefully selected the judges who are to preside over them, it is impossible that any pretext can be found for personal interference on the part of the sovereign.

About the year 1731 two cases were tried before two different tribunals.

ONE AT KONIGSBERG, THE OTHER AT POTSDAM.

At Potsdam a soldier, one of Frederick's celebrated giant grenadiers, had murdered a girl, his mistress, under circumstances of great brutality and without any sufficient provocation. He was tried, it being time of peace, before the Criminal Court of that city and, no defence being possible, was condemned to be hanged. The decision was sent to the King for ratification; he, on receiving it, sent it to a more violent rage, sent for the judges and accused them personally in the grossest manner, swearing that they should never hang any of his grenadiers. He then caused the soldier to be turned over to the military authorities, who sentenced him to three months imprisonment. Nearly at the same time one Schlubbutz, a public official, employed in some capacity in the fiscal administration of the city of Konigsberg, was accused of defalcations amounting to the sum of 11,000 thalers (about \$3,000). He admitted having misappropriated the money, but claimed that he had only wished to use it for a time, and that he was simply able to refund it, which it appears he was. After several appeals the case was carried up to the Royal Supreme Court, at Berlin, which seems to have considered Schlubbutz as guilty more of culpable carelessness than of any willfully premeditated breach of trust, and besides ordering him to make good the money, sentenced him to be imprisoned for four years—a punishment which they thought would amply meet the exigencies of the case. This sentence, like the last, was sent to Frederick William for his signature.

It excited his wrath and disapprobation in an even greater degree than the last, though from very different motives. He now denounced the lenity of the judiciary as much as he had formerly condemned their severity. He was determined Schlubbutz should be put to death, and ordered his purpose so repeated in the most thorough manner. He was then, in the words of the judges, thoroughly intimidated by threats, which they well knew he was capable of putting into execution, at length gave way and pronounced the required judgment. The unfortunate man was hanged on a gallows of extraordinary height before the windows of the Treasury building at Konigsberg, and it was some years before the members of that department could obtain from the inexorable King the removal of the gibbet, which reminded them so painfully of the disastrous fate of their late colleague. Of course in both these decisions the King was actuated by purely egotistical motives. He considered the soldier as simply his personal property, which he would have lost had the sentence of the law been carried out, while in the other case his money had been stolen, so it was but right the offender should be made a terrible example of. Leaving out of sight the repulsive character which pervades the two trials related above, and which is incidental to the character of Frederick William, who carried his egotism to positive brutality, we may trace in them a curious analogy to the two cases of Count Arnim and the late Ambassador at Paris. Leaving out of sight the repulsive character which pervades the two trials related above, and which is incidental to the character of Frederick William, who carried his egotism to positive brutality, we may trace in them a curious analogy to the two cases of Count Arnim and the late Ambassador at Paris.

CAPTAIN WERNER, OF THE NAVY, AND COUNT VON ARNIM.

Both were accused of breach of the rules of diplomacy, for it is absurd to view Count Arnim's offense in any more serious light, and both are supposed to have given offence and incurred the hostility of the Prince Chancellor. So far the cases of the commander and diplomatist are similar. But what a difference in the treatment meted out to each! The Captain's offense was open and palpable, it could not be denied; yet his government hesitated long before it removed him from his command, and when finally he was ordered home no attempt was made to curtail his liberty; he was well received at Court, and although it is true that he was condemned by court martial and received a gentle reprimand, yet he was speedily consoled for it by his promotion to a higher rank. On the other hand, the Ambassador's crime has never been clearly defined; he has repeatedly offered to leave the issue of the matter to the courts, yet he is at once thrown into prison, debarré all intercourse with his nearest relatives—in short, treated like a common malefactor. And when at last released for very shame he is placed under a guard that none but a man of exceptionally large resources could raise. Such comparisons involuntarily inspire us with the idea that this Prince of Prussia is at heart very much like the Prussia of one hundred and fifty years ago, a vast military organization, not a nation in arms, but a army transferred into the hands of a monarch, of a nation of which the King represents the ancient German War Chief, and wherein civilians have no voice in the government, and wherein the monarch is Frederick the Great, that most potent of Prussian sovereigns, respected by his subjects, but not by his enemies, and who treated his enemies in the manner in which he treated his intimate friends, the *Magnificent Philosophers*, Voltaire.

## DIPHTHERIA.

## The Alarming Progress of this Contagious Malady.

## FIFTY DEATHS IN THE PAST WEEK.

## An Interesting Interview With a Prominent Physician, Showing the Best Method of Treatment and the Simplest Preventives.

The recent reports of the Board of Health show rather alarming figures in regard to diphtheria, and, as prevention is better than cure, it would not be unwise if some of the readers of the HERALD were to take a few necessary precautions to allay the spread of this destroying contagion. Old and young are in danger, but more especially children between the age of four and fifteen.

THE CAUSES OF DIPHTHERIA. The chief want of proper nourishment, pure air, &c. Dr. Troussseau says of the disease—"When I saw diphtheria prevailing as an epidemic I thought that the position of the city, which is situated in the midst of a valley watered by two rivers, had some influence upon the development of the disease, and I attributed, like almost every body else, the cause of this formidable affection to cold, and especially to humidity; but on glancing over historical documents I soon became convinced that these supposed local causes could be considered at most only as accessories, and after I had myself made some statistical and comparative observations in four departments where the disease had presented itself in an epidemic form and was dreadfully destructive, I became certain that diphtheria did not depend either on seasons or localities. Thus, in some towns remarkable for their salubrity, diphtheria raged with excessive violence, while some villages, situated in the midst of marshes, remained exempt from the scourge. It must be admitted that misery if not an exclusive condition was at least rather an ordinary one of the development of diphtheria, for it was evident that the epidemic seized upon the poor inhabitants in preference to those who were in easy circumstances. Contagion performs the principal part in the propagation of diphtheria, and it is nearly sufficient for a patient attacked with diphtheria to come into a family in order that the disease should develop itself in all its forms." It is evident from the above and the statistics of the Board of Health that the

BEST PREVENTIVES. To this disease are cleanliness, frequent bathing, pure air and good, wholesome food. It is hardly necessary to dwell on the danger of diphtheria, but what renders it especially dangerous is the difficulty with which it may attack an individual, as well as the mechanical obstacles which it may offer to one of the most important functions of life and the obstinacy with which it resists the therapeutic resources which generally modify other inflammations. Thus, although it is generally not very dangerous to the skin, it becomes so when it attacks the mouth and the nasal fossae, but it is most frequently fatal when it attacks the pharynx, and, unless it is immediately attended to, it scarcely ever spares the patient when it has once reached the larynx and the bronchial tubes. Diphtheria is a disease extremely alarming in this city, and appears to ravage the crowded districts. The victims for the most part have been children, and a number of cases have been reported, and attending public schools. The very greatest caution should be used to prevent the spread of this contagion, and immediately the nature of the disease is ascertained, the patient should be strictly confined and kept apart from other human beings. The following statistics will give some idea of the rapid increase of this contagion and how important it is that steps should be immediately taken to arrest its further progress. The table explains the mortality in the past few weeks:—

	1873.	1874.
	Diph. Meas.	Diph. Meas.
	Deaths.	Deaths.
September 13.....	20	13
September 26.....	33	17
October 7.....	29	29
October 14.....	32	29
October 21.....	37	29
October 28.....	31	11

The above figures plainly exhibit a steady increase in the deaths from diphtheria and membranous croup during the past three weeks, and call for some serious attention on the subject. In Prussia a number of cases have been reported, and in Brooklyn there were seventeen fatal cases of this disease during the week ending October 17. In New York City, New Jersey, and other cities of the South, Charleston has been especially unfortunate, as during the week ending October 17, 1874, the mortality was seventy-seven per cent of whom have succumbed to diphtheria.

A Herald correspondent paid a number of visits yesterday to the leading physicians in the city in order to ascertain their views as to the increase of the epidemic. In consequence of conversation with a prominent physician he learned that the reason to believe that the epidemic was over, as, although the Board of Health still reported an increase in the number of cases, that the contagion in the air, but from the crowded tenements in which the sick were confined. Diphtheria is a contagious disease, and it is not only children are prone to catch, and should one in a family of five or six residing in some small apartment acquire the complaint, it is more than probable that the rest of the family will be more or less attacked by the loathsome pestilence. In the families of the rich the infected child is always removed to a separate room by itself, but in the case of the poor the disease is apt to spread. A well known physician in Charleston recently lost four children—all victims to diphtheria—by the contagion of the disease, and attributed the want of proper and wholesome nourishment, as children in a weak and sickly condition are very subject to the malady. There were also a number of cases of diphtheria in New York, as out of 150 children attended by this gentleman only three were affected by diphtheria or croup. The stage of the disease most dreaded by the medical faculty is what is known as diphtheritic paralysis, as the patient's affected limbs if ever recover are left in a state of permanent paralysis.

In order to give some idea of what diphtheria really is, how it is treated, &c., the HERALD correspondent called on a leading physician, who gave a special description of the disease, and received the following information:—

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—What is the definition of diphtheria?

PHYSICIAN—The diphtheria now so prevalent is an acute affection, the most striking symptoms of which consist in the formation of a false membrane in the throat. It is in the atmosphere, and anything lowering the system makes one prone to take it.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—How do you mean lowering the system?

PHYSICIAN—For instance, a person not dieted properly will be in a weak and lowered condition. Diphtheria is particularly prone to attack the aged, and a moist, impure atmosphere will assist diphtheria. Again, persons recovering from typhoid fever and children with scarlet fever and measles are liable to catch the disease.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—What are the symptoms?

PHYSICIAN—The disease is generally ushered in with a chill, which is followed by a very great increase of temperature, a rapid pulse and all the signs of fever. As the malady advances the throat becomes painful and sore, and upon examination at the commencement of the disease the tonsils are seen to be covered with a whitish gray exudation somewhat like the curd of milk. This exudation often extends into the pharynx, the larynx and the mouth. When the disease attacks the larynx, great irritation makes the patient suffer with a dry cough.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—What is the prognosis of the disease?

PHYSICIAN—The prognosis depends on the character of the disease. In the case of epidemic diphtheria the prognosis is generally bad, but in sporadic cases we find it better unless in very young people recently affected with scarlet fever.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—What are the best precautionary measures to take?

PHYSICIAN—The best preventive is perfect good health, obtained by judicious exercise, good food, bathing and regular habits. Avoid overwork and other depressing influences. Strict attention should be paid to drainage and every care taken to purify the atmosphere of the house, keeping the air dry and salubrious. All sudden exposures to heat and cold should be carefully avoided, as they check the action of the skin and tend to encourage the infection.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—What is the best treatment?

PHYSICIAN—The best treatment is the simplest, only tending to alleviate the suffering. The patient without attempting a cure, in years gone by the patient was put through a very severe course of application, such as sprinkling camellia and camellia. Now, the opinion of the leading men of the day, the treatment from the commencement should be tonic, invigorating and supporting, and the patient with digestible and nutritious articles of food, such as milk, animal broths and carmelous

gruel. As the disease progresses stimulants may be given in moderation, such as milk punch, wine whey, &c. The parts affected should also be freely bathed with antiseptic solutions, and if in the throat, to be used as a gargle. The lotions may be either solution of chlorate of potash, carbolic acid or lime and glycerine. The fever should be treated by simple means, such as cold water containing lime and the free use of sweet spirits of nitre. The temperature should be lowered by frequently sponging the body with tepid water containing a small amount of alcohol or vinegar. Oxygen gas may sometimes be administered from a tank, and affords considerable relief to the diseased portions of the throat.

## PUBLIC HYGIENE IN GERMANY.

## Woman's Work in Factories—The German Congress of Sanitary Union.

FRANKFORT, Oct. 8, 1874.

The Congress of the German union for public hygiene is just ended at Breslau, where a number of eminent medical and scientific gentlemen met to discuss matters of general interest connected with hygiene. It was unfortunate that most of the speakers treated their subjects from an entirely too restricted, local point of view. There were long speeches about the history of hospitals, and, of course, we are very happy to hear credit given to the Christian Church for the erection of the first house for the sick in Europe. The oldest hospital appears in the Basiliad, an institution established by Bishop Basilius, of Cappadocia, intended for all kinds of human charity—for the reception of the poor, of orphans and the sick. And we are told that this Basiliad was in its day considered to be the greatest wonder of the world, greater even than the Colossus at Rhodes. An interesting subject was treated by Dr. Hirt, of Breslau.

## WOMEN'S WORK IN THE MANUFACTURES.